

estimated 1½ million Americans in attendance.

Frederick Douglass described Grant as “a man too broad for prejudice, too humane to despise the humblest, too great to be small at any point.” Douglass saw in Grant “a protector” to freed Blacks, “a friend” to Indians, “a brother” to vanquished foes, and “a savior” for our imperiled Nation.

Yet progressive historians, a partisan press, and political enemies tarnished his record from the beginning. They have maligned him as a drunk and a butcher and a bumbling western rube who was ill-suited to politics and probably corrupt at that. This is an ahistorical slander against a great American.

As a deeply honest man and a Washington outsider, Grant perhaps wasn’t always astute in spotting the unscrupulous swindlers and grifters attracted to our capital then as now. As President, he trusted some who didn’t deserve that trust. His critics have exaggerated this guilelessness as a mortal sin, using dishonesty of others to besmirch the record of a good and great man. But Douglas was right; Grant was “a savior” of this Republic, and his few failings pale in comparison to his extraordinary achievements. And Grant’s countrymen agreed, electing him twice by historic landslides.

I have four photos hanging on the wall of my Senate office, photos of great statesmen who saved the West in our hour of crisis: Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill, Ronald Reagan, and U.S. Grant. Throughout his life, U.S. Grant embodied a profound patriotism and selflessness that our Nation should remember with awe and reverence. On this bicentenary of his birth, we should restore him to the pantheon of American heroes, first among Americans.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT KRISTEN TRINDLE

Madam President, America’s retreat from Afghanistan was a dark chapter for our country. We all remember the terrible scenes of desperate people clinging to the undersides of planes, of Taliban thugs beating innocent people, and most tragically of all, the 13 flag-draped remains of brave American service men and women killed by an ISIS suicide bomb. We will never forget those tragic events. They are grim reminders about the wages of weakness in Washington.

But for every act of cowardice in Washington, for every act of evil by our enemies, there was an act of even greater bravery by our troops. As they always do, America’s heroes redeem even the most forlorn missions through extraordinary action. I would like to recognize one of our Nation’s heroes today.

Navy LT Kristen Trindle is a member of my team in the Senate, where she does excellent work as my deputy national security adviser, after starting 6 years ago as my intern.

I know that Lieutenant Trindle would be too humble to sit beside me today if she had any idea about what I

am going to say. But last year she took a leave of absence from her Senate duties to deploy with the Navy Reserves. That deployment took her to Kabul, the eye of the storm.

Lieutenant Trindle served as aide-de-camp to the general in charge of evacuation. Their mission: to save as many Americans and Afghan allies as possible from the advancing Taliban. Lieutenant Trindle immediately proved her worth. For weeks, she was everywhere at once, creating on-the-fly methods to screen evacuees, coordinating evacuation efforts with counterparts from four countries—even helping orphans in the chaos of the Kabul airport.

Those actions alone would have been worthy of commendation, but Lieutenant Trindle went above and beyond the call of duty. She volunteered to leave the relative safety of headquarters to lead a clandestine extraction team charged with finding and recovering Americans and Afghan allies. These dangerous rescue missions often required Lieutenant Trindle to go outside the wire to rescue highly vulnerable evacuees. She executed these missions in the dead of night, despite confirmed threats, within sight of the enemy.

Armed Taliban fighters were regularly within 100 yards of her position, beating and whipping civilians and menacing Americans. Lieutenant Trindle was unfazed by this danger. She carried on with her mission.

Lieutenant Trindle and her team rescued an astounding 961 Americans and Afghan allies. That group included young kids, pregnant women, injured civilians, as well as high-ranking generals, helicopter pilots, translators—even an Afghan Supreme Court justice. Suffice it to say, many of these evacuees would be in jail, or worse, if Lieutenant Trindle and her team hadn’t been there.

At this time, my staff in Washington and Arkansas were working around the clock to evacuate American citizens. Two of those Americans, a married couple, had visited Afghanistan for a wedding right before being trapped behind enemy lines. They made a harrowing journey through Taliban checkpoints to reach Kabul, where they got stuck for days, unable to get to the airport.

They called my office’s evacuation hotline for help, and we guided them as far as we could—to the chaos of the airport gate—while we updated the coordination cell just beyond the barricade. Suddenly, Lieutenant Trindle appeared. You can find the cell phone videos of that nighttime rescue online. The Americans were screaming for help. The Taliban fighters were savagely attacking civilians nearby. Then, over the roar and din of the crowd came the calm, resolute voice of Lieutenant Trindle, saying, “She’s with me.” That couple is now home in America, in safety. Lieutenant Trindle was with them.

The Nation has awarded Lieutenant Trindle the Bronze Star for her actions

during the evacuation. I had the great honor of presenting that medal to her earlier today.

As the official account of Lieutenant Trindle’s actions note, she “achieved 100% mission success in the face of unparalleled chaos.” I would add that Lieutenant Trindle met “unparalleled chaos” with unparalleled courage. She deserves every bit this high honor, and she deserves her country’s sincere gratitude.

Thank you very much, Kristen.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I thank both her and Senator COTTON for their service to our country.

ULYSSES S. GRANT

Madam President, I know the vote is imminent, but I wanted to also echo his words on Ulysses S. Grant.

History was not always kind to Grant, as a general and as a President. With the publication of Ron Chernow’s book on Grant, many of us and many historians and many citizens changed their views on Grant as a very important general and a very important President, who did mostly the right things on race after the Civil War. And if he could have served another term or two, our country would look very different, in terms of race and in terms of the structure, in terms of the Black codes and Jim Crow and structural racism that we have seen in this country.

I just wanted to call to the Senate’s attention, Senator BLUNT and I have a resolution—it may be hotlined later today, I believe—in commendation, thanking President Grant, honoring the life and legacy of U.S. Grant and the commemoration of his 200th birthday. So I also wanted to add those comments.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk (Alaina Skalski) proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIRMATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, we have just gotten some very good news, and that is that the Senate has confirmed the U.S. attorneys and U.S. marshals who had been blocked for quite a long time. It is a good thing that our Republican colleagues finally stopped their indefensible obstruction of qualified U.S. attorneys and marshals. These nominees are vital to keeping our communities safe and secure, and they should never have been held up for leverage in partisan games.

The nominees are vital to keeping our communities safe and secure. After months of waiting, communities in Georgia and Ohio and Nevada and Minnesota and New Hampshire and other States are finally getting the security